

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/18/11

EDO CONTROL: G20110228
DOC DT: 03/16/11
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Robert Menendez

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 11-0163

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

New Jersey's Nuclear Safety
(EDATS: SECY-2011-0178)

ROUTING:

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Muessle
OGC/GC
Dean, RI
Leeds, NRR
Wiggins, NSIR
Burns, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 03/30/11

ASSIGNED TO:

EDO

CONTACT:

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

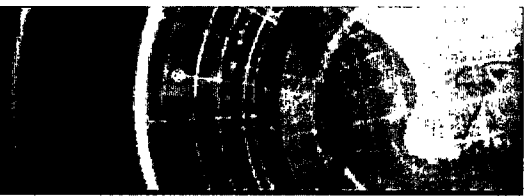
Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). Region I, NRR and NSIR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0178

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 4/18/2011 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 4/20/2011 11:00 PM

Subject: New Jersey's Nuclear Safety

Description:

CC Routing: RegionI; NRR; NSIR; OGC; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20110228, LTR-11-0163

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: Chairman Jaczko

Sensitivity: None

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). Region I, NRR and NSIR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Senator Robert Menendez

Date of Incoming: 3/16/2011

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 3/30/2011

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

ROBERT MENENDEZ
NEW JERSEY

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March 16, 2011

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Jaczko,

I am deeply saddened by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and I commend you for your agency's efforts to help Japan avert a potentially catastrophic nuclear emergency at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. But I also have concerns about New Jersey's nuclear safety and hope you can help me understand our preparedness in cases of emergencies.

It is important that lessons be learned from this tragedy. As you know, just like the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, the Hope Creek and Oyster Creek Generating Stations in my home state of New Jersey, use the General Electric boiling water reactor (BWR) design and a Mark I containment system. The Hope Creek station sits adjacent to the Salem 1 and Salem 2 nuclear power stations, in a region which has seen numerous small earthquakes over the past century. The Oyster Creek Station sits close to the Atlantic Ocean and is regularly under threat of hurricanes. The Indian Point Generating Stations, just 15 miles north of New Jersey in Buchanan, NY, sit near two significant fault lines.

In light of these similarities, I would like to know if safeguards are in place at these nuclear power plants that would prevent what is unfolding in Japan. Specifically, at all nuclear power generating stations in or near New Jersey:

- Are diesel generators and their fuel supplies protected from floods and earthquakes?
- If diesel generators fail, is there adequate battery backup to ensure power until the main power source is restored?
- What are these power plants designed to withstand and is the NRC reevaluating these safeguards in light of current events?

I am also interested to know if the NRC believes this is the time to renew discussion about whether nuclear power plants using the Mark I containment system can continue to operate safely without modifications or additional safety systems. As you know, there have been criticisms of the Mark I containment since the 1970's and some of these concerns came from within the NRC.

My goal with this letter is to seek reassurance that New Jersey and its nuclear fleet are as safe as possible. I look forward to your response and thank you for your continued work to keep Americans safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator